

Town of Tolland Town Council's Annual Budget Presentation

Fiscal Year 2018-2019

Presented by
Bill Eccles
Chairman, Tolland Town Council

April 23, 2018 – Tolland High School
April 24, 2018 – Senior Center

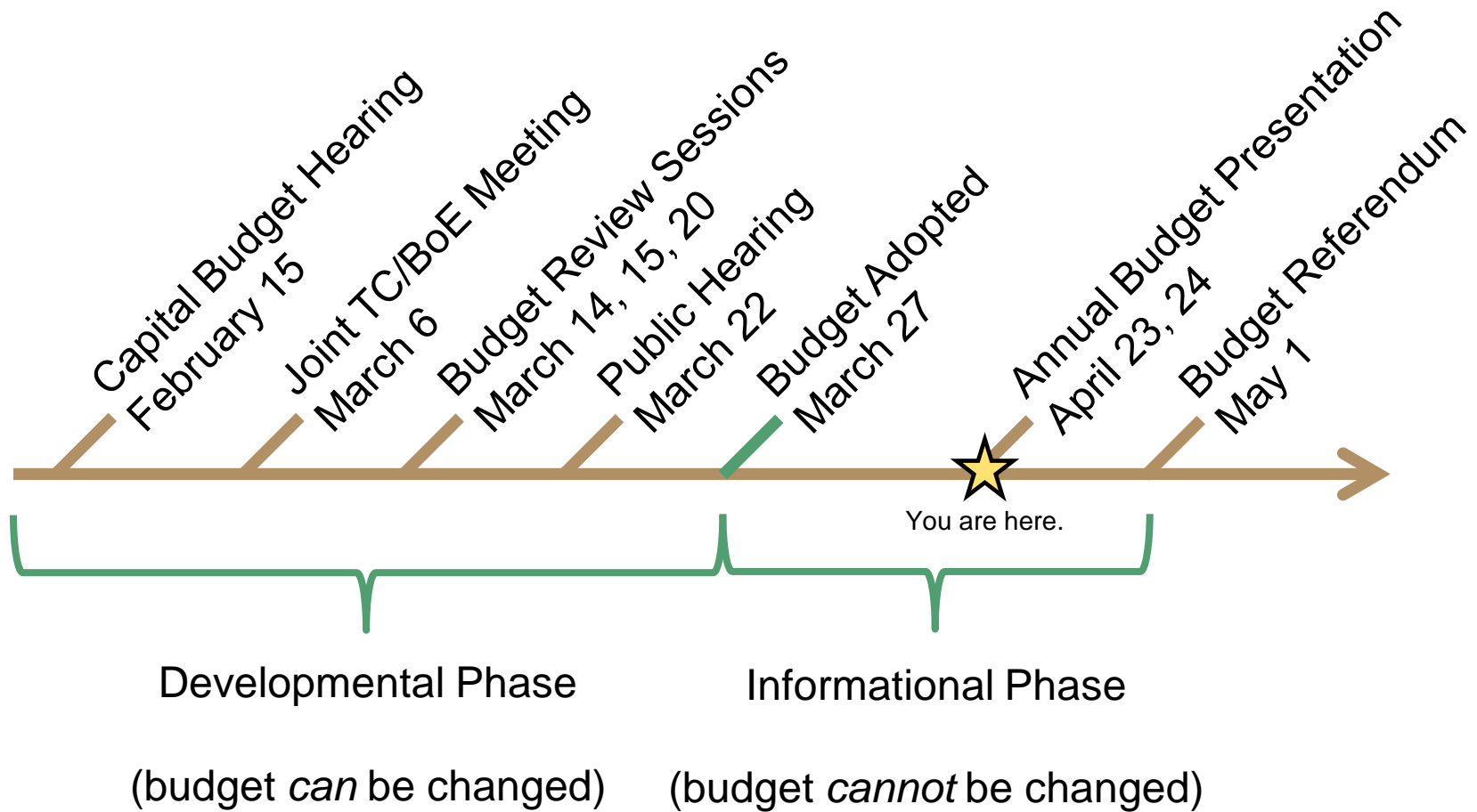
What's This Meeting For?



Why are we here?

- Disseminate information
- Meet charter requirement (§C9.9)
- Stimulate discussion
- Help voters make an informed decision

Budget Process Timeline



What is “The Budget?”



Simple question, but... what is it?

- Funds programs and services for residents
- Sets level of service
- Authorizes necessary spending
- Is executed for less when possible

Budget Goals



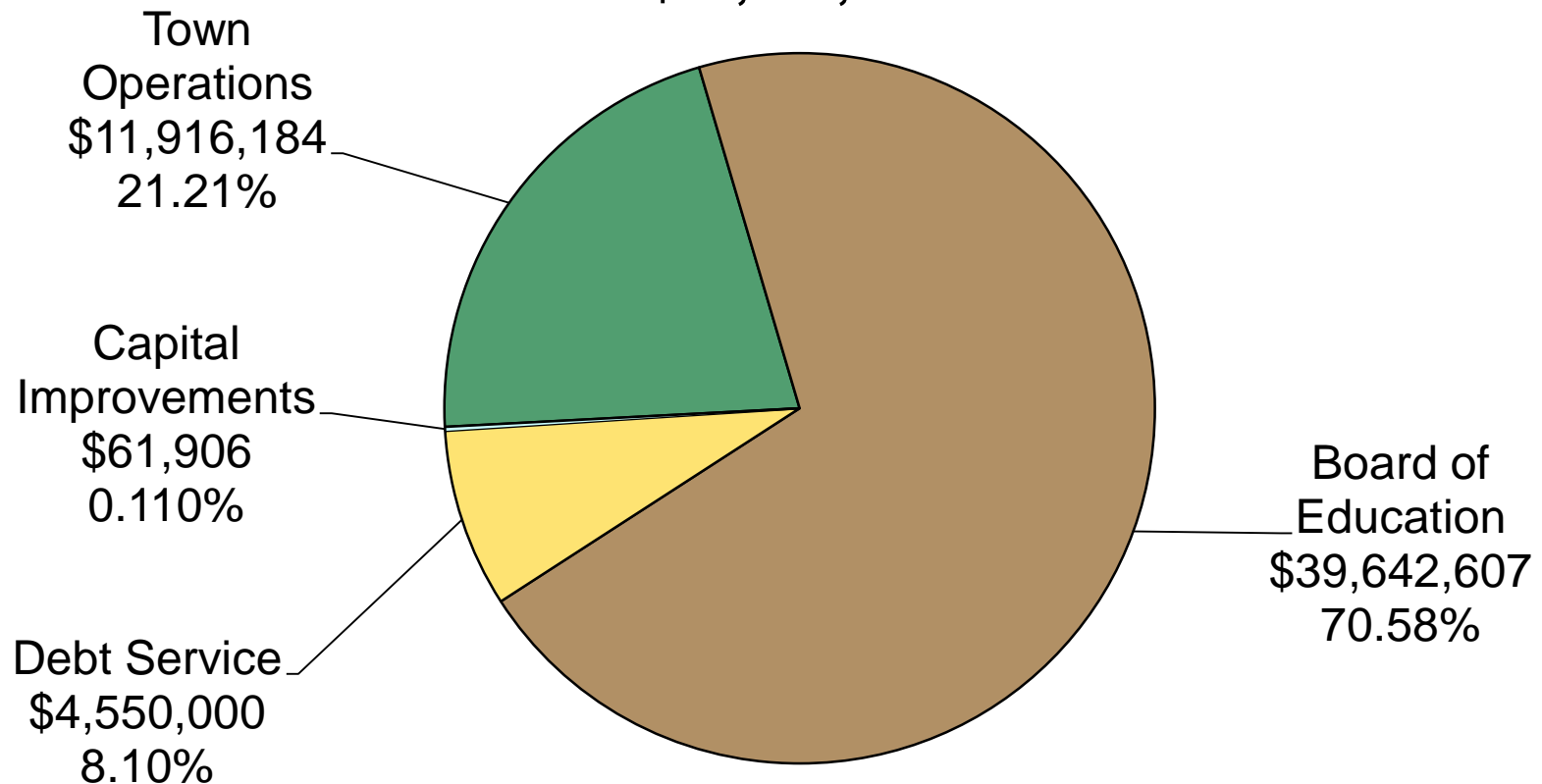
- Maintain or improve services
- Hold taxes at a reasonable amount
- Maintain creditworthiness
- Make progress towards self-reliance

The Budget: Expenditures



Controls levels of service and programs

2018-2019 Budget \$56,170,697



Changes to Expenditures

By the numbers



Budget Area	Adopted Budget FY17-18	Proposed Budget FY18-19	Change
General Government (Town Operations)	\$11,781,721	\$11,916,184	\$134,463 1.14%
Board of Education	\$39,333,948	\$39,642,607	\$308,659 0.78%
Capital Improvements	\$54,578	\$61,906	\$7,328 13.43%
Debt Service	\$4,550,000	\$4,550,000	\$0 0%
Total	\$55,720,247	\$56,170,697	\$450,450 0.81%

Budget Highlights



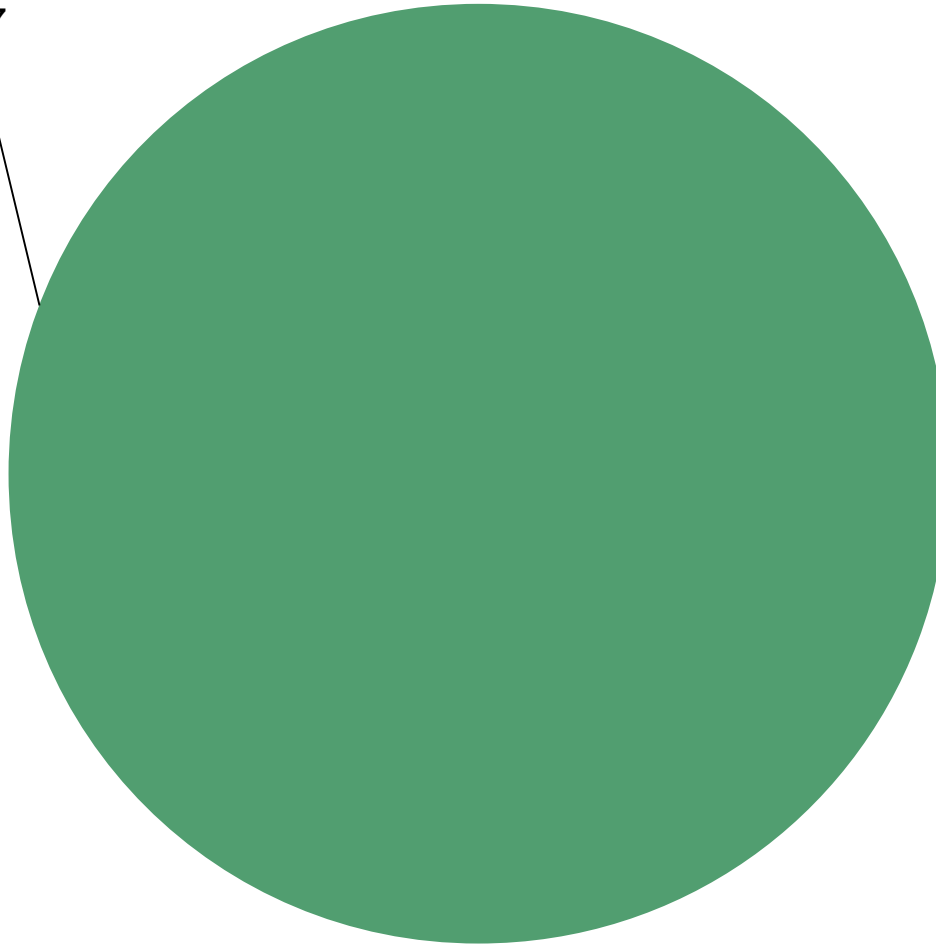
- Added back two Resident State Troopers
- Added back one free bulky waste pickup
- Funded full Board of Education request
 - Adds positions for
 - Business teacher, for a future Business Academy
 - Special educator, to keep students in district
 - Math interventionalist, to meet state requirements
 - Science supervisor, to help students prepare for Next Generation Science Standards, reduce attrition
- Maintains cost avoidance programs like LEAP

The Budget: Revenues



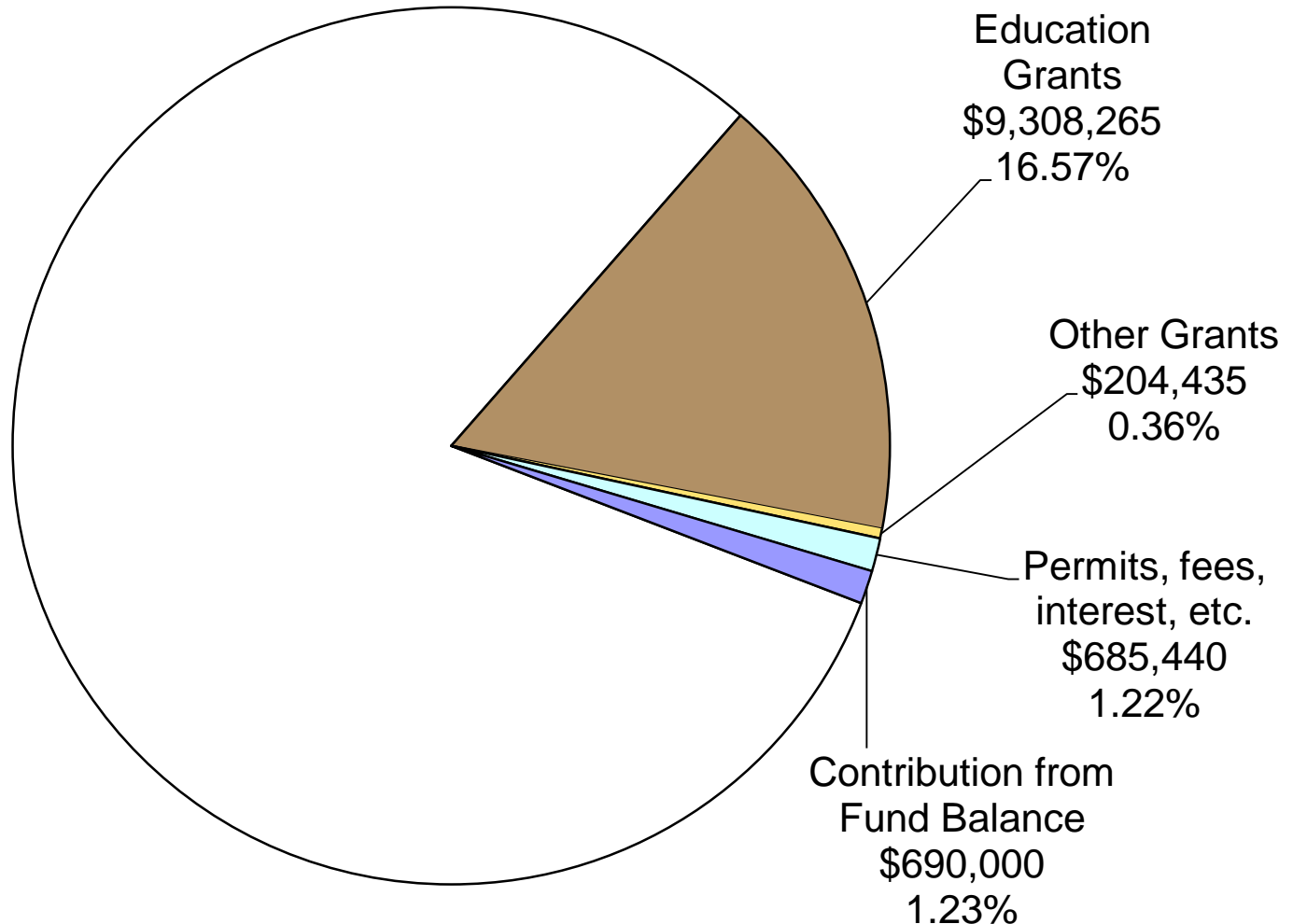
Start with the total need, \$56,170,697

Total need
\$56,170,697
100.00%



The Budget: Revenues

Subtract permits, fees, grants, etc.

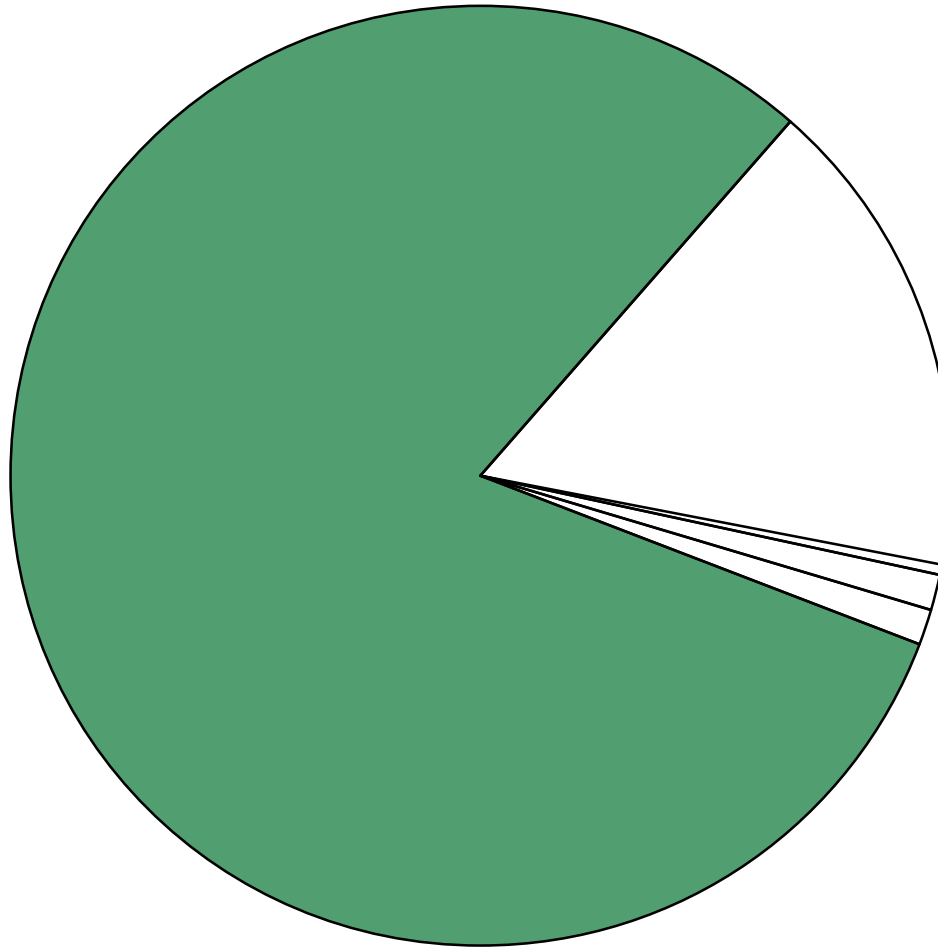


The Budget: Revenues



What's left is property taxes, \$45,282,557

Property Taxes
\$45,282,557
80.62%



The Problem: Revenue Uncertainty



- Perfect world:
 - State sets budget before we do
 - We know grants before referendum
- Today's world:
 - State may take forever to set budget
 - Grants are guesswork
- Therefore:
 - Manager estimated ECS grant at \$9,308,625
 - Based on last year's actuals and estimate of legislature's budget

The Problem: Revenue Uncertainty



- Extra funds go into fund balance
- Funds shortage to be negotiated between Board of Education and Town Council

Effect on the Mill Rate



Increased spending	0.23 mill
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Loss of about 9% in state revenues	0.86 mill
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With no fund balance use, mill rate increases
1.40 mills, or 4.07%

With \$690,000 fund balance use, mill rate
increases 0.86 mill, or 2.49%

Services: Maintain or Improve?



Highlights

Increases

- + 2 Resident State Troopers
- + Bulky waste pickup
- + \$152,000 in savings in other areas
- + Four school positions

Decreases

- High student/teacher ratio in 2nd grade

Taxes: Held at Reasonable?



What's reasonable?

Market Value	2014 Assessment	Taxes at 34.48	Taxes at 35.34	Annual Difference	Monthly Difference
\$167,276	\$117,093	\$4,037	\$4,138	\$101	\$8.42
\$268,979	\$188,285	\$6,492	\$6,654	\$162	\$13.50
\$514,813	\$360,369	\$12,426	\$12,735	\$309	\$25.75

Taxes: Held at Reasonable?



What's reasonable?

Neighboring communities:

- Ellington: +5.36%
- Coventry: +1.25%
- Stafford: too early to tell
- Mansfield: +5.68%
- Vernon: +2.83%
- Willington: -0.07%

(Variation by town from grant estimates, grand list growth)

Creditworthiness: Maintained?



Too early to tell

- Much greater than normal use:
typical is \$150,000 to \$200,000
- Offset by revised fund balance use policy:
controls how much can be used and
establishes replenishment plan

Self-Reliance: Increasing?



Have to start somewhere...

Board of Education

- Implementing LEAP, keeps special needs students in-district (*cost avoidance*)
- Increasing early intervention (*cost avoidance*)
- Starting Tolland Business Academy, potentially brings tuition-bearing students (*income*) and keeps students here (*cost avoidance*)
- Adding science coordinator to strengthen STEM, keep students here (*cost avoidance*)

Self-Reliance: Increasing?



Have to start somewhere...

Town Council

- Examining regionalization opportunities
- Considering alternate policing strategies
- Advocating for homeowners with crumbling foundations

Self-Reliance: Increasing?



Commercial Real Estate to the rescue!

To make up for \$1,000,000 loss of state aid,
Tolland would need:

- 8 Star Hills
- 6 Norwegian Woods
- 2 Big Y Plazas
- 12 CL&P buildings (the big one on Route 74)

or

- ¼ 300+ apartment complex with hotel and restaurant

Self-Reliance: Increasing?



Efficiency

- Sharing grounds and building maintenance between BoE and Town
- Increasing building energy efficiencies
- Retaining dedicated staff
- Maintaining a mixed volunteer/paid fire department
- Using Resident State Troopers
...and more

Self-Reliance: Increasing?

Bottom Line



We're making progress...

...but we will have tough choices to make.

Budget Goals Scorecard

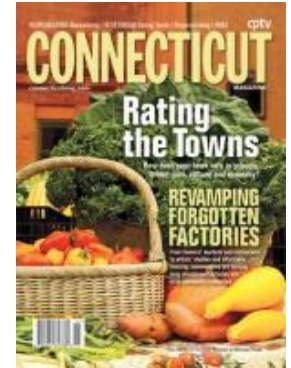


- ✓ Maintain or improve services
- ✓ Hold taxes at a reasonable amount
- ? Maintain creditworthiness
- ↑ Make progress towards self-reliance

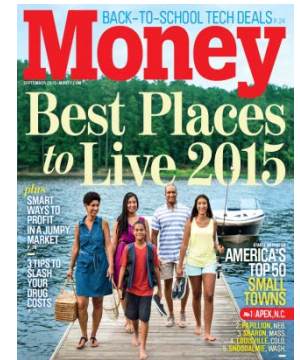
Tolland is a Great Place to Live!



Ranked 1st of 46 towns by
Connecticut Magazine in the
\$200,000 - \$249,000 median home
value category



Ranked 34th by *Money Magazine* in
2015 as a “Best Place to Live”



The Budget Referendum Info Slides

Because every budget presentation needs them



The budget referendum question:

Shall the Town of Tolland's proposed 2018-2019 budget of \$56,170,697, reflecting a spending increase of \$450,450 or .81% which requires a tax rate of 35.34 mills, be adopted?

The Budget Referendum Info Slides

Because every budget presentation needs them



Where?

Library Program Room

When?

Tuesday, May 1, 6am-8pm

Online Resources

Tax Calculator, Budget Information



Go to www.tolland.org, then select:

>> Departments

>> More...

>> Finance Department

and choose

Town Budget Information

from the menu on the left

Tax Calculation Form

FY2016/2017 Council Proposed Budget

This calculator reflects the proposed Council Budget which can be seen in its entirety on the Finance Department page.

The final mill rate for the Town's budget will be determined after a budget is approved at referendum which is held on May 3, 2016. Should the budget be defeated, additional referendums are held every other Tuesday until a budget is adopted.

Old Mill Rate: 33.36

New Mill Rate: 34.34

Input the Following: (numbers ONLY, no commas or \$)

(A) Your Home's New Assessed Value 2015

(B) Your Home's OLD Assessed Value 2014

[Calculate Values](#)

Your assessed value can be located by clicking [here](#). Hard copies of your assessment information including assessment prior to revaluation are at the Town Assessor's Office.

Click to Calculate
(Results Appear Below)

Results: (Do not enter any information below this box)

Tax Information

Description of Taxes	\$ Annual	\$ Monthly
Old Taxes Due Your 2014 Assessment multiplied by 33.36, then divided by 1,000.	6790.76	565.90
New Taxes Due Your 2015 Assessment multiplied by 34.34 then divided by 1,000.	7044.85	587.07

Tax Change:

Description of Change	\$ Annual	\$ Monthly
Additional Taxes due to Budget Increase	254.09	21.17

How Can We Help Each Other?



Tolland is what we make of it!

Become involved!

Volunteer for Town boards, commissions, and civic organizations

Become informed!

Sign-up for Tolland Notifications on the website @ www.tolland.org

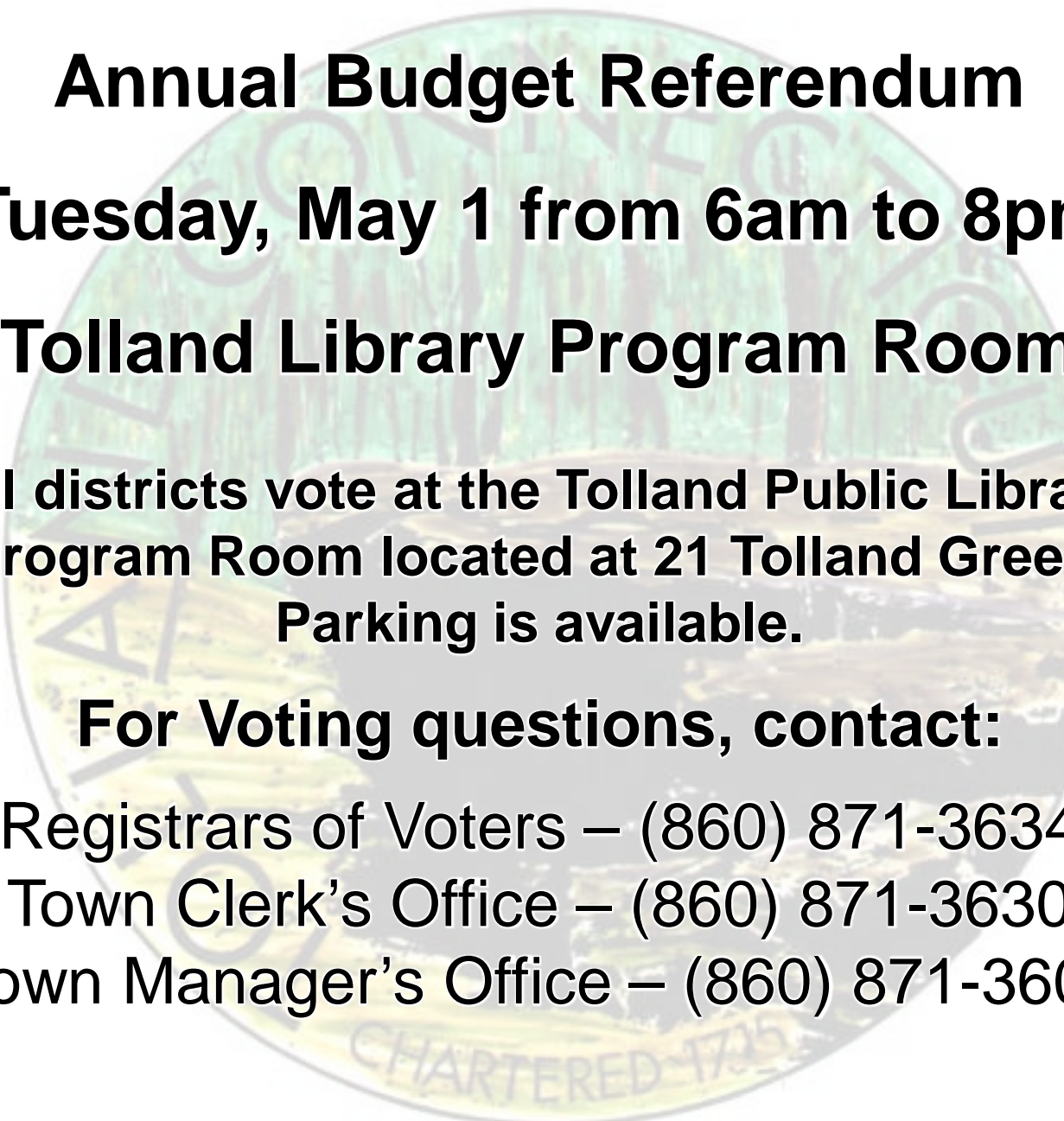


us on Facebook @Town of Tolland, CT

Follow us on Twitter @TownOfTolland

Submit suggestions, questions or comments via the Town's website

Share your knowledge, your ideas and your time to continue to keep Tolland a great place to live, to become a better place, and to make sure our quality of life is sustainable.

The background of the slide features a large, faint, circular seal of the Town of Tolland. The seal contains a landscape with a rising sun, a river, and a bridge. The text "TOLLAND" is arched across the top, and "CHARTERED 1735" is at the bottom.

Annual Budget Referendum

Tuesday, May 1 from 6am to 8pm

Tolland Library Program Room

**All districts vote at the Tolland Public Library
Program Room located at 21 Tolland Green.
Parking is available.**

For Voting questions, contact:

Registrars of Voters – (860) 871-3634

Town Clerk's Office – (860) 871-3630

Town Manager's Office – (860) 871-3600